

Pinghua

**Pinghua** (simplified Chinese: 平话; traditional Chinese: 平話; pinyin: *Píng huà*; Yale: *Pìhng Wá*; sometimes disambiguated as Chinese: 廣西平話/) is a pair of Sinitic languages spoken mainly in parts of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, with some speakers in Hunan province. Pinghua is a trade language in some areas of Guangxi, where it is spoken as a second language by speakers of Zhuang languages. Some speakers of Pinghua are officially classified as Zhuang, and many are genetically distinct from most other Han Chinese.<sup>[2]</sup> The northern subgroup of Pinghua is centered on Guilin and the southern subgroup around Nanning. Southern Pinghua has several notable features such as having four distinct checked tones, and using various loanwords from the Zhuang languages, such as the final particle *wei* for imperative sentences.

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History and classification

Language surveys in Guangxi during the 1950s recorded varieties of Chinese that had been included in the Yue dialect group but were different from those in Guangdong. Pinghua was designated as a separate dialect group from Yue by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in the 1980s<sup>[3]:15</sup> and since then has been treated as a separate dialect in textbooks and surveys.<sup>[4]</sup>

Since designation as a separate dialect group, Pinghua has been the focus of increased research. In 2008 a report by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences of research into Chinese varieties noted an increase in research papers and surveys of Pinghua, from 7 before the 1987 publication of the *Language Atlas of China* based on the revised classification, and about 156 between then and 2004.<sup>[5]</sup>

Pinghua	
<span>平話 / 平话</span>	
<div><div><span><span>平</span></span><span><span>平</span></span></div><div><span><span>話</span></span><span><span>话</span></span></div></div> <div>Pinghua written in Chinese characters</div>	
Native to	China
Region	Guangxi
<div>Native speakers</div>	7+ million <span> </span> (2016) <sup>[1]</sup>
<div><span>Language family</span></div>	<div>Sino-Tibetan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Sinitic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Pinghua</b></li></ul></li></ul></div>
<div>Dialects</div>	<div>Northern Ping</div> <div>Southern Ping</div>
Language codes	
<span>ISO 639-3</span>	Either: <div>csp – Southern Ping Chinese</div> <div>cnp – Northern Ping Chinese</div> <div></div>
Glottolog	ping1245 <span> </span> (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/ping1245)
Linguasphere	79-AAA-o

In the 1980s the number of speakers was listed as over 2 million;<sup>[3]:21</sup> and by 2016 as 7 million.<sup>[6]</sup>

Pinghua is divided into two mutually unintelligible languages:<sup>[7]</sup>

- The Northern Pinghua (*Guìběi* 桂北平话) is spoken in northern Guangxi, around the city of Guilin, in close proximity with Southwest Mandarin dialects.
  - and also in a some places in Hunan, such as Tongdao.
  - Younian dialect (ethnically Yao)
- The Southern Pinghua (*Guìnán* 桂南平话) is spoken in southern Guangxi, around the city of Nanning. These varieties form a dialect continuum with Yue varieties spoken in that part of Guangxi (excluding enclaves of Cantonese, such as in Nanning).<sup>[8]</sup> Yu Jin subdivides this group into three types:<sup>[9]</sup>
  - Yongjiang, spoken along the Yong River around Nanning.
  - Guandao (官道 "official road"), spoken to the east of Nanning in Laibin and the counties of Heng and Binyang, around the road to the Southwest Mandarin-speaking city of Liuzhou.
  - Rongjiang, spoken along the Rong River to the north of Liuzhou.

## Phonology


Nanning Pinghua has a voiceless lateral fricative [ɬ] for Middle Chinese /s/ or /z/, for example in the numbers /ɬam/ "three" and /ɬi/ "four".<sup>[10][11]</sup> This is unlike Standard Cantonese but like some other Yue varieties such as Taishanese.

## Tones

Southern Pinghua has six contrasting tones in open syllables, and four in checked syllables,<sup>[12]</sup> as found in neighbouring Yue varieties such as the Bobai dialect.

Tones of Nanning Pinghua

Tone name		Level <i>píng</i> 平	Rising <i>shàng</i> 上	Departing <i>qù</i> 去	Entering <i>rù</i> 入
Upper <i>yīn</i> 陰	高	52 [˥]	33 [˨˨˦]	55 [˥˥]	5 [˥]
	低				3 [˨]
Lower <i>yáng</i> 陽	高	21 [˩˦]	24 [˨˨˦˥]	22 [˨˥˥]	23 [˥˩˦]
	低				2 [˨˩˦]

	
Chinese name	
Traditional Chinese	平話
Simplified Chinese	平话
Cantonese Yale	Pìhng Wá
Hanyu Pinyin	Píng Huà
Transcriptions	
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Píng Huà
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale Romanization	Pìhng Wá
Alternative Chinese name	
Traditional Chinese	廣西平話
Simplified Chinese	广西平话
Cantonese Yale	Gwóngsāi Pìhng Wá
Hanyu Pinyin	Guǎngxī Píng Huà
Transcriptions	
Standard Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Guǎngxī Píng Huà
Yue: Cantonese	
Yale	Gwóngsāi Pìhng
Romanization	Wá

The split of the lower entering tone is determined by the initial consonant, with the low rising contour occurring after sonorant initials.<sup>[13]</sup>

## Anthropological

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Genetically, Pinghua speakers have more in common with non-Han ethnic minorities in southern China than with other Han groups.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Further reading

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## External links

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- Classification of Pinghua Dialects (<https://web.archive.org/web/20090911021434/http://language.glossika.com/category/sino-tibetan/ping-%E5%B9%B3%E8%A9%B1/>)
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